

Appln No. 10/043,763

Amdt date April 12, 2004

Reply to Office action of January 12, 2004

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 2, 4 and 23 - 35 are in the present application, of which claims 2, 4, 23 - 25 and 30 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have been canceled herein. New Claims 30-35 have been added.

Claims 2, 4 and 23 - 29 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,617,473 ("Bingham").

The Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 to expedite allowance of the pending application in view of the allowed claims and the new claims presented herein.

New Claim 30 recites, in a relevant portion, "[a] method of protecting an integrated circuit from over voltage, the method comprising . . . if the power supply voltage has a first value less than a predetermined value: turning off a first switch disposed between the pad voltage and a gate terminal of a second switch disposed between the pad voltage and a bias node; and turning on a third switch disposed between the bias node and the gate terminal of the second switch, thereby turning on the second switch to provide a bias voltage for the integrated circuit at the bias node."

The Applicant submits that neither Bingham nor any other art of record teaches or suggests such a method of protecting an integrated circuit from over voltage. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Claim 30 is allowable. Since Claims 31 - 35 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 30 these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 30.

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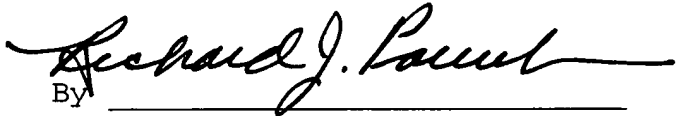
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In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Richard J. Paciulan

Reg. No. 28,248

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